

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. 1-39. (Cancelled)
40. (Currently Amended) An endodontic instrument for removing material from a wall of a channel, the instrument comprising a flexible member having a longitudinal axis and an initial cross-sectional area in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis at each point along the longitudinal axis, the member being bendable along the axis and resiliently compressible in cross-sectional area ~~deformable in a direction perpendicular to the axis to conform to a channel having a non-uniform width~~ such that, when inserted into a channel of cross-sectional area less than the initial cross-sectional area, the flexible member conforms to an internal shape of the channel.
41. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, wherein the flexible member is a shape memory member.
42. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, wherein the member further comprises a plurality of radially disposed elements, a cutting edge being disposed on the distal ends of the radially disposed elements.
43. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, further comprising a cutting edge on at least a portion of an exterior surface of the member.
44. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, further comprising on at least a portion of an exterior surface of the member at least one selected from a group consisting of an abrasive surface, a roughened surface, small teeth, and a cutting edge.

45. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the member comprises a wall having an open lattice structure surrounding a hollow interior portion of the instrument.
46. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the member has a hollow interior extending along the longitudinal axis through which fluid can flow.
47. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein fluid can flow into the channel via a space between the wall of the channel and an outer surface of the endodontic instrument.
48. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the member comprises at least one longitudinal element connected to a plurality of circumferential elements.
49. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 48, wherein the circumferential elements are straight elements.
50. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 48, wherein the longitudinal element is one selected from a group consisting of a straight element and a curved element, and wherein the circumferential elements are selected from a group consisting of straight elements and curved elements.
51. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the instrument is made from one selected from a group consisting of a superelastic material, a material having shape memory properties, and a material treated to give the material shape memory properties.
52. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the instrument is made from a nickel titanium alloy.

53.-75. (Cancelled)

76. (New) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, wherein the flexible member comprises a plurality of longitudinal elements extending generally parallel to the longitudinal axis, and a plurality of connecting elements interconnecting between said longitudinal elements.

77. (New) The endodontic instrument of claim 76, wherein, in an uncompressed state of the flexible member, said longitudinal elements and said connecting elements lie substantially on a cylindrical profile.

78. (New) The endodontic instrument of claim 77, wherein said longitudinal elements and said connecting elements define a hollow structure.

79. (New) The endodontic instrument of claim 77, wherein said longitudinal elements and said connecting elements define an open structure such that a majority of an area of said cylindrical profile is open.

80. (New) The endodontic instrument of claim 77, wherein at least part of each of said connecting elements extends in a direction having a longitudinal component.

81. (New) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, wherein the flexible member is resiliently compressible such that, when the flexible member is rotated about said longitudinal axis, the flexible member remains pressed against an internal surface of a non-circular channel.

82. (New) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, wherein the channel is non-circular in cross-sectional shape.